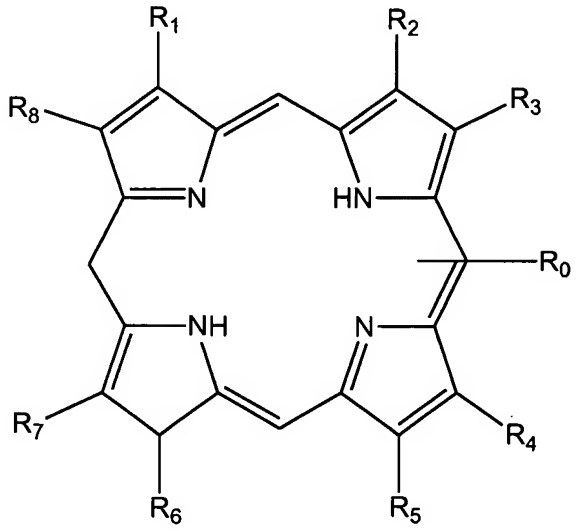
Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Cancel claims 288 and 297.

287. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A labeling reagent comprising a nonmetallic porphyrin, said reagent comprising:



wherein R_0 is a reactive group and is attached directly or indirectly to any one of the four non-pyrrole positions of said nonmetallic porphyrin, and R_1 through R_8 independently comprise hydrogen, aliphatic, unsaturated aliphatic, cyclic, heterocyclic, aromatic, heteroaromatic, charged or polar groups, or any combinations of the foregoing.

288. (CANCELED)

289. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The labeling reagent of claim 287, wherein said reactive group R_0 comprises sulfhydryl, hydroxyl, amine, isothiocyanate, isocyanate, monochlorotriazine, dichlorotriazine, mono- or di-halogen substituted pyridine, mono- or di-halogen substituted diazine, maleimide, aziridine, sulfonylhalide, acid halide, hydroxysuccinimide ester, hydroxysulfosuccinimide ester, imidoester, hydrazine, azidonitrophenyl, azide, 3-(2-pyridyl dithio)-proprionamide, glyoxal or aldehyde.

290. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The labeling reagent of claim 287, wherein as a reactive group R_0 is capable of forming a carbon-carbon linkage with a target.

291. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The labeling reagent of claim 287, wherein said reactive group R_0 comprises an alkene group, an alkyne group or a halogenated compound.

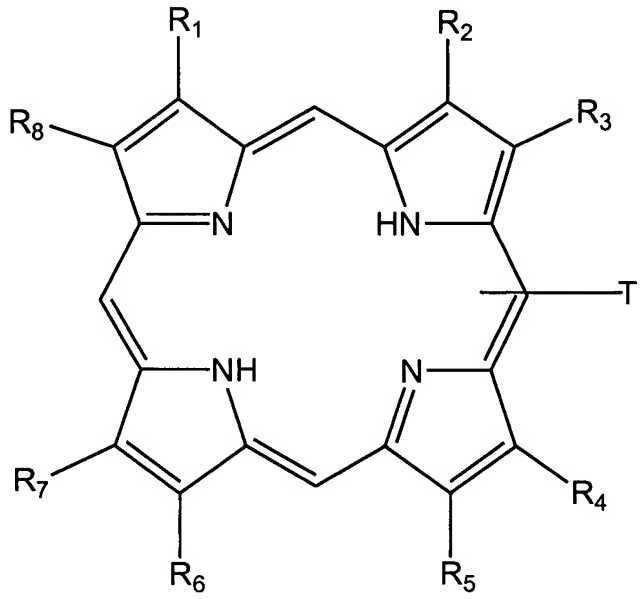
292. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The labeling reagent of claim 287, wherein any of said R_1 through R_8 alkyl groups comprises methyl, ethyl or propyl.

293. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The labeling reagent of claim 287, wherein any of said R_1 through R_8 alkyl groups further comprises a polar or charged group.

294. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The labeling reagent of claim 287, wherein said reactive group R_0 is attached indirectly to said nonmetallic porphyrin through a linker arm.

295. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)The labeling reagent of claim 294, wherein said linker arm comprises at least two consecutive peptide bonds.

296. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A labeled target comprising a nonmetallic porphyrin, said reagent comprising:



wherein T is a target molecule attached directly or indirectly to any one of the four non-pyrrole positions of said nonmetallic porphyrin and R_1 through R_8 independently comprise hydrogen, aliphatic, unsaturated aliphatic, cyclic, heterocyclic, aromatic, heteroaromatic, charged or polar groups, or any combinations of the foregoing.

297. (CANCELED)

298. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The labeled target of claim 296, wherein said target T comprises a protein, a peptide, a nucleic acid, a nucleotide or a nucleotide analog, a receptor, a natural or synthetic drug, a synthetic oligomer, a synthetic polymer, a hormone, a lymphokine, a cytokine, a toxin, a hapten, an antibody, a carbohydrate, a sugar or an oligo- or polysaccharide.

299. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The labeled target of claim 298, wherein said nucleic acid or nucleotide or nucleotide analog is modified.

300. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The labeling reagent of claim 296, wherein any of said R_1 through R_8 alkyl groups comprises methyl, ethyl or propyl.

301. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The labeling reagent of claim 296, wherein any of said R_1 through R_8 alkyl groups further comprises a polar or charged group.

302. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The labeling reagent of claim 296, wherein said target T is attached indirectly to said nonmetallic porphyrin through a linker arm.

303. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The labeling reagent of claim 302, wherein said linker arm comprises at least two consecutive peptide bonds.

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